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# MONTANA LETTER

CATALOGING PREP

MAY 1972

July 30, 1971

## WHEAT PROVISIONS FOR 1972 ANNOUNCED

Next year's wheat program will again place no limits on wheat acreage but participants will be required to set aside slightly more acreage as their contribution to adjusting over all agricultural production to needs. In return, they will receive 100 percent of parity return on the normal production of their full domestic allotment through a combination of certificate payments and sales or price support loans.

Announcement of the program in mid-July by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin will give winter wheat growers time to make their planting plans.

These plans may also take into account that barley will be included in the 1972 feed grain program and that there will be substitution between wheat and feed grains for allotment and base protection.

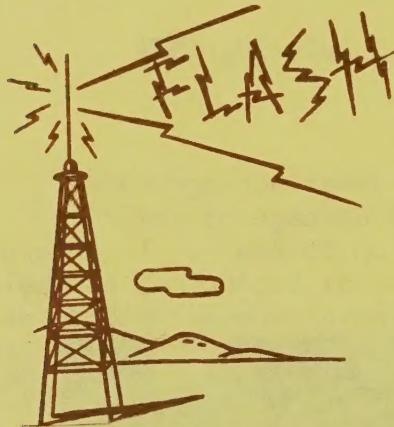
The set-aside requirement will be an acreage equal to 83 percent of the domestic allotment. This is the maximum permitted by law and compares with this year's 75 percent. Allotments for most Montana farmers will be slightly larger next year, although the national domestic wheat allotment is unchanged from 1971 at 19.7 million acres. Our increase -- about 2 percent -- results largely from operation of a provision which allows transfer of allotment from farms not using or protecting it to farmers wanting to grow wheat.

Barley is included in next year's feed grain program as the result of USDA estimates that feed grain supplies will be adequate in 1972 due to the improved supply of blight-resistant corn seed. The set-aside requirement for barley will be between 20 and 35 percent of the base, the exact figure to be set when feed grain program provisions are announced.



Everett H.F. Felber, ASCS deputy administrator, management, and Mrs. Felber were unexpected visitors at the ASCS county office in Whitehall recently. They were members of a tour group retracing the Lewis & Clark trail from St. Louis to Astoria, Oregon, under the leadership of Hal Stearns, Montana history buff and Harlowton newspaper editor. Mr. Felber, who has held many positions of leadership during more than 30 years with ASCS and predecessor agencies in Washington, D.C., visited with Earl Wohlfom, Jefferson-Madison-Silver Bow CED, and Alice McClure (left), program assistant.

Under the substitution provision, acreage devoted to feed grain will be considered planted to wheat to prevent loss of allotment. Acreage devoted to wheat will be considered feed grain to prevent loss of a farm's feed grain base. Thus, a producer may plant all or any combination of his cropland to wheat or feed grain without loss of planting history or program benefits.



Growers will not be required to plant wheat to earn certificates. A preliminary payment equal to 75 percent of the estimated value of wheat certificates will be made shortly after July 1. Any remainder will be paid after December 1, 1972. Loans on farm-and warehouse-stored wheat and purchase agreements will be available to program participants at a national average of \$1.25 per bushel. This is the support rate currently in effect.

Producers may use their set-aside acreage for grazing except during the five principal months of the normal growing season, but set-aside acreage must be

protected from erosion, weeds, insect damage and rodents. Producers will also be required to devote to conserving crops and uses an acreage equal to their conserving base.

There will again be no offsetting compliance requirement between farms owned or operated by the same producer. Participation on any or all farms in which a producer has an interest will be voluntary with signup scheduled for February 28 through April 7.

Wheat growers will soon be receiving notification of their wheat allotments, conserving bases and set-aside requirements.

### **UNDESIRABLE WHEAT VARIETIES REDUCED TO 15**

The list of wheat varieties designated as undesirable under USDA's price support loan and purchase program has been reduced to 15 for 1972. Four varieties have been added to the 1971 list but eight classed as undesirable this year have been dropped because production of them is believed to be insignificant.

Wheat varieties are listed as "undesirable" because of inferior milling or baking qualities for the use intended, or because they may be grown in areas where they are not compatible for milling with the predominant varieties, or because certain climatic or environmental factors in an area affect the quality.

These undesirable varieties for Montana growers for 1972 are:

Hard Red Winter - Cache, Red Chief, Wasatch and Yogo.

Hard Red Spring - Era, Henry, Nainari 60, Neepawa, Penjamo 62, Pitic 62, Red River 68, Spinkota and Super X.

White - Siete Cerros 66 and Gaines when grown east of the Continental Divide.

These varieties will not be eligible for premiums and will be discounted 20 cents



per bushel if offered for loan or purchase under the price support program. As in the past, growers seeking price support will be asked to certify as to any undesirable varieties produced.

The varieties were designated undesirable by USDA after consultation with research and control laboratory personnel in wheat producing States. Representatives of Crop Improvement associations support the action to help improve the overall quality of U.S. wheat production.

### **WATER BANK PROGRAM BUDGETED**

The Water Bank Act, approved December 19, 1970, provides for long-term agreements between landowners and operators and the Secretary of Agriculture, to conserve surface waters, preserve and improve wildlife habitat, and secure other environmental benefits in important migratory waterfowl nesting and breeding areas. The 1972 Federal budget would initiate the Water Bank program with an appropriation of \$10 million. The program is administered by ASCS.



### **YOU GREW IT, WHY NOT TAKE CARE OF IT**

Harvesting operations are gaining momentum in Montana. Reports of yield are trickling in -- some good, some bad -- and whether yours is a good, medium, or poor crop you should be concerned with the proper binning and care of the grain stored on the farm.



The objectives are three fold - keep it clean, keep it dry and keep it free from insect infestation. To accomplish these you should:

- Clean your storage bins and the area around them.
- Spray the bins before putting in grain.
- Inspect the grain regularly and treat with chemicals if necessary.

Proper storing of grain begins with a thorough cleaning of the combine, trucks, augers and any other handling equipment. Then clean the bin. Remove all left-over grain, sweep down the walls, ceilings, sills, ledges, floor and any other place where dust and debris can accumulate. Outside, remove accumulations of spilled grain. Clear trash, litter, grass and weeds from the bin area. A clean area helps eliminate the source of insect infestation and rodents that can be the cause of contamination.

After cleaning the bin, apply a surface spray to the inside - and if possible - the bottom three feet of the exterior of the bin. Consult your Extension agent for the names of approved bin sprays and proper method of application.

Once the grain is binned, inspect periodically to see that doors, hatches, and other openings are securely fastened and that bin walls, roofs, or floor have not been damaged or are leaking. Make repairs promptly. Don't give moisture, insects or rodents a chance.

Inspect the grain frequently. Commercial handlers check their stored grain at least once a month and they are not satisfied with just a surface inspection, either -- they probe the bins using a deep bin probe to draw samples at various levels in the grain. They are looking for concentrations of moisture, abnormally high temperatures and insect pests.

A quick and easy way to check for abnormal temperatures involves keeping an iron rod in the grain. When you want to check, withdraw and feel the rod. A warm spot can mean trouble. Investigate the area thoroughly with a deep bin probe or a thermometer and take action as recommended by your Extension agent, commercial exterminator, or your local warehouseman. Corrective actions can include aeration by the use of a fan, turning the grain or, perhaps, fumigation.



Maintaining high quality grain is not difficult but it is important. Insect, heat or rodent damaged grain can have but one effect - a lowering of net income. Too often producers have the impression that because the grain is pledged as collateral for CCC loan, the responsibility for maintenance is transferred to the government. This is not so. Producers delivering the grain in satisfaction of a loan will find that the grain's value is based on its condition and may or may not satisfy the note held by CCC.

A final word - use care in the application of chemicals on or near grain, as well as any other food product. Use only USDA-approved chemicals and apply in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Dispose of containers and residual amounts of diluted chemicals in a landfill disposal pit or some similar suitable non-polluting place. The concentrates are generally stable; however, the chemicals as diluted for use generally are not, and should be disposed of in a safe manner.

#### **SPREADING IT THIN . . . AND QUICK**

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK ends Saturday but our concern for safety and accident prevention in rural areas should be continuing. Put safety FIRST all year round. . . BEEKEEPERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED bee losses due to pesticides during the period January 1, 1967, and June 11, 1971, have only until next January 1 to submit claims for indemnification. Indemnity will be determined either on the basis of damage to colonies, or on the basis of business loss and replacement expense. ASCS county offices will accept indemnity applications. . . CLAIMS FOR LOSSES OF BEES subsequent to June 11 should be filed as promptly as possible after the loss occurs. . . PERSONS INTERESTED IN OFFERING THEIR VIEWS regarding proportionate shares for next year's sugarbeet crop may do this at the hearing in San Francisco, Calif., on August 10 or by sending written statements to the Sugar Division, ASCS-USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. The hearing will be in the Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Ave., beginning at 10 a.m. . .

*Joel P. Antrim*  
Joel P. Antrim, Chairman  
Montana State ASC Committee  
P.O. Box 670, Bozeman 59715